













THE WEATHER.

U. S. WEATHER BUREAU, Los Angeles, Dec. 14.—At 5 o'clock a.m. the barometer registered 30.14; at 5 p.m., 30.09. Thermometer for the corresponding hours showed 56 deg. and 58 deg. Relative humidity, 5 a.m., 100 per cent.; 5 p.m., 89 per cent. Wind, 5 a.m., southwest, velocity 2 miles; 5 p.m., southwest, velocity 5 miles. Maximum temperature, 57 deg.; minimum temperature, 55 deg. Character of weather at 5 a.m., foggy; 5 p.m., clear. Barometer reduced to sea level.

The Times

ALL ALONG THE LINE.

"We took our lives and our characters in our hands, when we began this work," says a member of the Committee on Immoral Practices of the Parkhurst Society. "If that is so, Jab Wilson should use sapollo."

One hundred and fifty carloads of oranges were shipped out of Southern California last Saturday, to enable the fringed East to celebrate Christmas properly and with satisfaction to itself. If there were no California, life in the East would be hardly worth living.

The contested election case in Ventura county will be heard on December 20, and meanwhile nobody knows who will represent the county in the Legislature. It requires great care to avoid violating the California election laws, and some candidates are careless.

The Parkhurst Society is not enjoying the unanimous support of the ministers in its attempt to do the work of the police. Several preachers last night expressed their disapproval of the slumming expeditions and urged their brethren to attend to more important and fitting duties.

A San Francisco paper has sent a man to Randsburg to "write up claim-jumping" and other forty-nine and Wild West features of the new mining camp. Of course there are very few, if any, such features actually existing, but they will all be luridly set forth in the San Francisco paper.

Uncle Sam has just purchased fifty acres of land on San Diego Bay on which to erect sixteen 12-inch mortars for the defense of that harbor. Bids for the construction of the batteries will be asked for promptly. It now looks as if Southern California would soon have real fortifications. At present the only government guns at San Diego consist of two brass signal pieces with smooth bores.

Oil development in this city has resulted in the uncovering of artesian water. The Doherty syndicate tapped a subterranean reservoir at a depth of about one hundred feet. The well is a few feet north of First street, west of the hill beyond Newhall street. The well is flowing a small stream and is greatly agitated, showing considerable pressure from below. No material change has taken place in the oil field during the past week. The market is a little weak at the old quotations. No alarm is expressed in regard to either supply or demand, and lower quotations are not anticipated.

The report of an expert recently employed to examine the books of the San Barbara county shows that some of the Supervisors have for years past been systematically overcharging the county for mileage fees. Probably none of these gentlemen would be guilty of the slightest dishonesty in the conduct of his private business, but in dealings between the public and its servants the latter seem too frequently to take it for granted that the ordinary rules of morality are not binding upon them. The eighth commandment has been tacitly amended as to read "Thou shalt not steal except from the public."

Let's Secede.

(William White, Editor (Kan. City) Gazette.) The Populist Kansas City World, a valiant defender of our noble cause of 16 to 1 and repudiation, prints a thrilling story to the effect that Kansas is going to secede from the Union. At first thought this seems a little—not very, but just a little—startling. But as the idea sinks deeper, it strikes root and grows and waxes strong and blossoms and bears logical and delicious fruit. The idea is a good one. Let's secede. Let's tear loose from the plutocracy and the corrupt and unsympathetic East. Let's gather to ourselves here in Kansas all our jewels and bounce out of the sister States. Let's take our doll rags and quit civilization and annex ourselves to barbarism. Let's abolish interest; make poverty a felony; punish work with a sentence of enforced silence; make thinking a penal offense; enact brains into butter; paint over the astral per aspers with blue mud, and in its place inscribe in letters of seething green grease: "Vive la Lease—Hurrah for Hell!"

What's the use of being bound up with communities that are chained to the superstitions about what they call honesty? We of Kansas want to pulverize the money power; we want to pay our mortgages in silver, tin, sheet-iron, pot metal, asbestos, papier mache and wampum. The pent-up Utes and Schenectady and other plutocratic centers contract our powers. With these communities constantly treading on the ruffles of her garments, Kansas is handicapped. She can't bring forth the royal diadem, with the bright, glittering star of flap-doodle shimmering in the tiera and crown of lord of all. We cannot bow our devout knees to the wall-eyed joss of Tommy-rot from day's end to day's end, as our pious spirits would, because, forsooth, the laws of nature, enforced by the military of the bondholders, compel us to saw wood or go hungry, fish or cut bait. Therefore let us secede! What ho there, Alabama! Auk armies, citizens of Arkansas! Arouse ye, Florida! Rally round the standard of Jerry Simpson, who has boasted of his "flat money lunacy," shouting the battle-cry of Kansas. Peffer forever: hurrah, boys, hurrah! Up with Bill Bryan, down with the law! For we'll rally round His Whiskers, we'll rally once again, shouting the battle-cry of Kansas.

If war shall show his wrinkled front, let's get a flat-iron and smooth it out. This is a great day for Kansas. "Allons enfants de la Patrie. Le jour de gloire est arrive."

The success of Giorano's new opera, "Andrea Chénier," bids fair to surpass that of "Faust," as already it is booked up upward of 120 theaters in Italy likewise at St. Petersburg, Marseilles and Lyons.

A VETERAN JOURNALIST.

NOAH BROOKS, THE WAR CORRESPONDENT, TELLS OF LINCOLN.

He Was Appointed the President's Private Secretary, but the Assassination Occurred Before It Took Effect—An Amazing Incident.

Noah Brooks of Castine, Me., is spending the winter in Southern California. He is the guest of his nephew, Maj. F. K. Upham, treasurer of the Soldiers' Home. Mr. Brooks was the Washington correspondent for the Sacramento Union during most of the civil war and was for several years intimately associated with President Lincoln. He is the author of a series of articles in the Century bearing on Lincoln and his times, which articles have since been published in book form under the title, "Washington in Lincoln's Time." He is writing another book and has chosen his nephew's home as a place where he may work undisturbed.

Mr. Brooks is a native of Maine. From that State he went westward till in 1859 he crossed the plains to California. In 1862 he went East to represent the Sacramento Union at the President Andrew Johnson appointed Mr. Brooks naval officer of the port of San Francisco. In 1866 Mr. Brooks became editor of the Alta Californian in which position he employed his time till 1871.

"Sending correspondence from Washington to a paper in California during the war was attended with many difficulties," said Mr. Brooks, in an interview with a Times man yesterday. "Telegraph tolls for that distance over land were very high and it was only brief dispatches on the most important events that I sent by wire. The paper depended wholly upon Associated Press service. Nearly all of the matter was sent by letters. I wrote a letter from 1860 to 1860, words nearly every day. I used carbon duplicate copies and one copy of each letter was sent overland by 'pony' express and another copy was placed in a tri-monthly budget and sent by steamer by the Panama route. It not infrequently happened that the 'pony' express would suffer delay by being mired in mud or snowbound that the copies sent by steamer would get to Sacramento first. I sometimes saw a whole page of the Union with the delayed letters. I wrote them over the signature 'Castine.' The only other regular correspondent for a Pacific coast paper was part owner. He wrote over the signature, 'J. W. S.'"

Mention was made of the great volume of matter published in reference to Lincoln and the question was asked: "Has there not been a marked improvement in the character of those portions of such matter more recently published?" "Yes," said Mr. Brooks, "the tendency of the later writers has been to eliminate the mythical and dwell only on the real Lincoln. Years before his death almost innumerable stories about him were in circulation. I asked him one day what proportion of these stories were true. He said he thought about one-sixth of them. It was usual to apply numerous off-color stories to him. In all the years I was associated with him I never heard him tell but very few off-color stories and he told them only for the purpose of bringing out important points. I never knew him to tell such a story merely because it was off-color."

It is not true that you were appointed as Lincoln's private secretary?" "Yes, he asked me to act as such during his second term. His private secretary, Nicholas and Hay were appointed to positions in the foreign diplomatic service and he appointed me to act after they should go. They were to go in May, but Lincoln was assassinated in April. "Did I know Lincoln previous to his election as president? Yes, I met him frequently during the Fremont campaign and also during the Lincoln-Douglas debates. I was with him when he received the crushing news of the defeat of the Union arms at Chancellorsville. He was more deeply disturbed than I ever saw him at any other time. The news of the failure of the Chancellorsville campaign was a frightful disappointment to the loyal North."

"Had Lincoln lived, I have no doubt he would have become a Californian. While he was President the great boom in this State was in progress. Lincoln told me only a few months before his death that he thought that after he went out of office California would be a desirable place to take his boys. They would then find far greater opportunity for advancement, he thought, than in the developed States of the East."

"You had special opportunity, did you not, to view the initial proceedings to subsidize the Pacific railroads?" "I was in Washington at that time and while writing quite fully of the matter in my letters to the Sacramento Union, I personally urged the importance of the proposition on numerous members of Congress. Aaron A. Sargent, later Minister to Germany, but then member of Congress from the Nevada county district, was an indefatigable worker in favor of the proposition. I think that to the efforts of Theodore D. Judah, an engineer of Nevada county, more than those of any other man are due the inception and final success of the enterprise."

"An amusing incident came under my observation in the settlement of the details of the bond-aided roads. The act provided the amount furnished under the government subsidy should be \$22,000 per mile of road built, but that through the mountains it should be double that amount, or \$44,000 per mile. A dispute arose as to where (officially) the mountains began. The matter was referred to Lincoln for settlement. He had never been over the ground, and was influenced, in making his decision, largely by the testimony and evidence furnished by men interested. He fixed the divisional point at Arcade Creek, a few miles from Sacramento. Not long afterward Mr. Lincoln asked me what I thought of his decision. I told him I believed the point should have been fixed ten or twelve miles further eastward. The grade over that part of the line, I said, was very light."

"Then, according to you," remarked Mr. Lincoln, "I am a greater man than Joshua. He commanded the sun to stand still, but I have moved the base of the Sierra Nevada ten miles westward."

For Women Only.

A statement has been issued by a conference of ladies to the effect that a meeting of mothers and others interested in the work of the committee of the Parkhurst Society has been called for 3 o'clock p.m. today, in Simpson Tabernacle for conference, inquiry and suggestions. Miss Gabrielle Stickney of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union will preside at the meeting. This is the gathering of women only which Dr. McLean proposes to address upon the allurements to sin for young boys and girls in Los Angeles.

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Love in Old Clothes—H. C. Brunner; price.....\$1.35  
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Green and Black Novelty Mixed Suits, box coat, fancy silk lined, each.....	\$20.00
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The Delineator Patterns and Fashion Sheets are now on sale. Fashion sheets free to all applicants.

A fortunate purchase of 50 pieces of fine dress goods enables us to offer for the Christmas trade full suits, containing 8 yards of fine goods, for \$2.80 for the pattern. These goods were shipped to a neighboring merchant, who refused to take them. We bought the lot for about half price. No such dress goods bargains have been offered this season.

This is headquarters for inexpensive Christmas presents. Sample fans half price and less. Dolls way below the market price. All new this season; 25c, 35c, 40c, 50c, 75c and \$1. Some were sold for more than double last season. These are the times that a fifty-cent piece must answer the place of a dollar. We are looking for out you.

Inexpensive little things in the way of jewel and glove boxes, pin cushions, match safes, cigar holders, trays, fancy chinaware, small night lamps, button and glove hooks, paper knives, blotting tablets, picture and picture frames, mirrors, all the way from ten cents to one dollar. Fine goods for 25c and 50c.

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If there is anything wanted in either Cloaks, Capes Suits or Separate Skirts, we want to say to you don't pass the cloak department for real values. The weather has been greatly against selling the past four weeks. This leaves us with quite a large stock on hand. In order to sell this stock extraordinary cuts will be made. We have added the past week a lot of new capes that will be included in the big reduction. Shawls at big reductions to close the season. Cool weather will be here in abundance during January and February. It is the time to buy.

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